

Message Text

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SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS OF BANGLADESH, CUBA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, UKRANIAN SSR, GDR, AND ETHIOPIA MADE IN ECOSOC PLENARY MORNING OF JULY 15.

2. BANGLADESH: AMB. KIBRIA SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR STATES BUT WENT ON TO REPORT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH TOOK OVER IN BANGLADESH IN 1975 HAS TAKEN EFFECTIVE STEPS TO PUT THE ECONOMY "BACK ON ITS RAILS." AMONG THE SIGNS OF THIS RECOVERY WERE A GROWTH OF GDP IN REAL TERMS OF 9.7PERCENT DURING 1975-76 AND A 4.6PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PER CAPITA INCOME. THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL HAS ALSO REMAINED MORE OR LESS UNDER CONTROL AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS HAS SHOWN SUFFICIENT IMPOROVEMENT. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO AID THIS RECOVERY, AND THE ECONOMIES OF OTHER LDCS, KIBRIA URGED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1) ADEQUATE FUNDS SHOULD BE COMMITTED FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FOR BUILDING OF AN EMERGENCY FOOD-GRAIN RESERVE, 2) FINANCIAL AND RESEARCH SUPPORT SHOULD BE ENHANCED TO RAISE THE YIELD OF FOOD GRAINS, 3) FLOW OF NET AID SHOULD BE INCREASED TO LDCS, 4)

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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD HELP LDCS IN INDUSTRIALIZATION SO THAT LDCS CAN SHARE 25 PERCENT OF WORLD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BY THE END OF THE CENTURY, 5) THE COMMON FUND SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, AND 6) ALL TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS SHOULD BE REMOVED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS. THE UN SHOULD ALSO ACT ON THE HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAM.

3. CUBA: REP LOPEZ PAZ CHARGED THAT THE PRESENT INEQUITABLE STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY WAS STILL BEING DEFENDED BY THE CAPITALIST STATES AND CONTINUED THAT THE PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR NIEO MUST BE IMPLEMENTED. HE TOOK NOTE THAT THE 17TH SESSION OF ECLA HAD APPROVED THE PROGRAM OF ACTION. ECOSOC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION OF THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE CAPITALIST STATES TO CARRY OUT THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS APPROVED BY THE 29TH GA. PAZ SAID THAT UNFAVORABLE TERMS OF TRADE MUST BE DEALT WITH BY A PERIODIC ADJUSTMENT OF COMMODITY PRICES IN ORDER TO PROTECT PRODUCER INTERESTS. FURTHERMORE, A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCS MUST BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS A MULTILATERAL CODE OF CONDUCT GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN STATES.

4. UKRANIAN SSR: IN TYPICAL FASHION, REP. REITERATED SUPPORT FOR DETENTE AND THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, CASTIGATED "MONOPOLISTIC CAPITAL" AS BEING TOTALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE LDCS, PRAISED THE NEW SOVIET DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE "PEACELOVING" PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH IT IS BASED, AND PARROTED THE USSR PROPOSAL FOR A 10PERCENT CUT IN THE ARMS EXPENDITURES OF SECURITY COUNCIL PERMANENT MEMBERS.

5. GDR: OBSERVER IN BRIEF STATEMENT URGED THAT THE UN TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ELIMINATE ECONOMIC "COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM." THE CONCLUSION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCS AS WELL AS A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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TWO SUCH MEASURES. HE ALSO URGED THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATORY TRADE BARRIERS AND THE PREVENTION OF PROTECTIONISM.

6. CANADA: STATED THAT DESPITE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS IN PAST TWO YEARS. CIEC CANNOT BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE BUT WAS CERTAINLY USEFUL. CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, IN ADDITION TO IMPORTANT BUT LESS TANGIBLE RESULTS SUCH AS INFLUENCING IDA REPLENISHMENT NEGOTIATIONS, IFAD, ETC., REPRESENT GREATER PROGRESS THAN THAT ACHIEVED IN ANY OTHER CONFERENCE IN RECENT YEARS. CALLED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN MTN, IMF, ETC., FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SYG WALDHEIM'S ENERGY PROPOSALS, DEVELOPMENT OF "RELEVANT AND VIABLE" IDS FOR DDIII, AND SAID RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO AN END THIS AUTUMN.

7. NEW ZEALAND: PERMREP SAID THERE IS MORE REALISM REGARDING ECONOMIC SITUATION NOW THAN IN 1973, PERHAPS RESULTING FROM LOWER EXPECTATIONS. PRAISED SPRING ECOSOC DECISIONS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, CALLING SOCIAL FACTORS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN NEW IDS. NOTED THAT AS PRIMARY COMMODITY EXPORTER, NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCING SAME TYPE OF PROBLEMS AS MANY LDCS. DESPITE THIS, AND MODEST RECORD ON ODA, NZ TRYING TO ASSIST LDCS, PARTICULARLY

IN SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. AS EXAMPLE, HE CITED THAT THAT GOVERNMENT RECENTLY DECIDED NOT TO BUILD SUGAR PRODUCTION FACILITY BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPETITIVE WITH SUGAR EXPORTS OF NEIGHBORING LDC. EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR COMMON FUND, AND HOPE THAT BOTH HABITAT INSTITUTIONAL QUESTION AND RESTRUCTURING PROBLEM WILL BE RESOLVED THIS YEAR.

8. ETHIOPIA - GENEVA PERMREP BERHANU ASSESSED CURRENT SITUATION IN STRONGLY NEGATIVE TERMS. HE SAID LDC EXPECTATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED, TRANSNATIONALS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE LDC TRADE AND WORLD CONTINUES TO PURSUE "INTERNATIONAL TRICKLE DOWN" THEORY. THERE IS NO POLITICAL WILL TO UNDERTAKE FUNDAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING OF WORLD ECONOMY AND RICH COUNTRIES SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO LULL LDCS INTO FALSE SENSE OF OPTIMISM. HE NOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT INTERNAL RESTRUCTURING WITHIN LDCS (LAND TO THE TILLERS, ETC.) IS FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY BUT THAT COUNTRIES WHICH ATTEMPTING TO DO THIS, SUCH AS ETHIOPIA, ARE SUBJECTED TO WITHDRAWAL OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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